# Office of Engineering and Technology

Staff Presentation
FCC Open Commission Meeting
January 13, 2021



## **OET's Mission**

Manage the spectrum and provide technical leadership.

Create new opportunities for innovation and economic growth.



## **Advanced Communications Services for All**

From spectrum allocation to equipment certification, OET is there from start to finish

- Manages US Table of Frequency Allocations the 'foundation' of spectrum management
- Provides engineering support on Commission service rulemakings
- Ensures new devices and equipment comply with technical rules

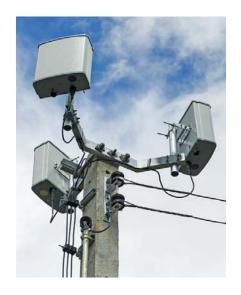
#### Making Spectrum Available – 5G FAST!

- Critical Engineering Support for Key Spectrum Initiatives:
  - o 600 MHz

o C-Band

o L-Band

- o 3.5 GHz
- Spectrum Frontiers





## **Advanced Communications Services for All**

## Unlicensed Spectrum Leadership



- 1,200 megahertz of spectrum
- Will support latest generation of services (i.e., Wi-Fi 6)



 Retained spectrum for core automotive safety applications in the band while expanding unlicensed use

#### 600 MHz White Spaces

 Expanded opportunities for rural and hard-to-serve areas, including for rural schools and communities, IoT, and innovative agricultural applications

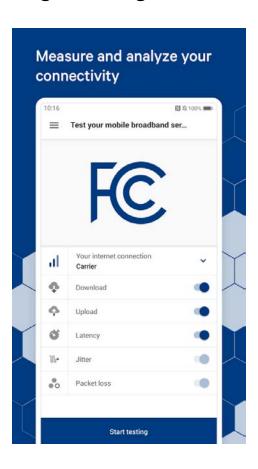
#### Spectrum Horizons

Granted new access to terahertz spectrum above 95
 GHz



## Advanced Communications Services for All

#### Engineering and technical analysis to support FCC priorities



- Developed new speed test app for Measuring Broadband America (MBA) program
  - Used to support Commission work and independent researchers
- OET data and analysis used to support
  - o 5G Fund
  - Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)
  - Broadband coverage and mapping



## Promoting Innovation

#### Evolution of the Experimental Licensing Program

- o Program Experimental Licenses accepted
- Innovation Zones
- Experiments above 95 GHz
- Commercial space launches/UAV technologies

#### Modernization of the Equipment Authorization Program

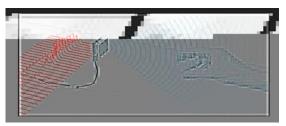
- Updated our marketing and importation rules
- Developed new self-certification and e-labeling provisions
- Competitive market-based Certification process
  - TCBs submit more than <u>25,000</u> Certification applications yearly



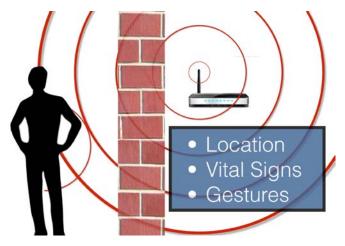
## Promoting Innovation

### Processing waiver requests to provide flexibility for innovators

- Issued multiple Part 15 waivers for innovative unlicensed devices, including those for:
  - Medical devices
  - Transportation and security equipment
  - Agriculture and industrial applications
  - Productivity and lifestyle products







"Now, more than ever, we need to support and enable innovation in health care."

- Chairman Pai, April 30, 2020



## Promoting Innovation

## Constantly reviewing and updating our rules to accommodate new technologies

- Vehicular Radar R&O (76-81 GHz)
  - Using millimeter wave spectrum to sense surroundings and protect public safety
- Remote Wireless Charging
  - Authorized first systems to provide wireless power transfer (up to one meter)





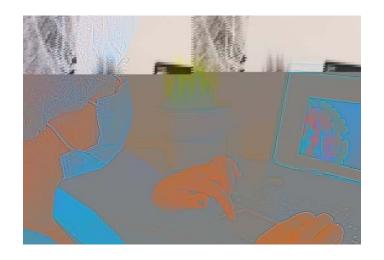
- Preserve the integrity and improve the availability of wireless microphone services
- Major RF Order issued in December 2019
  - Reaffirmed existing standards, streamlined evaluation procedures, sought comment on expanding the range of frequencies subject to RF exposure limits
  - Streamlined regulations promote innovation while protecting the public



## Protecting Consumers and Supporting Public Safety

#### Meeting the challenges of COVID-19

- Waiver to allow importation and operation of new medical devices to fight the COVID-19 pandemic
- Special Temporary Authority (STA) for contacttracing system used by the NFL in 2020-2021 season
- Wireless internet service providers permitted higher power levels during the pandemic – improved broadband service to consumers





- Allowing new security screening portals to operate under the unlicensed rules through waiver grants
- Conducting lab testing and audits of RF devices and related technologies
- Aiding Commission response to hurricanes and other natural disasters



## Modernizing Operations and Programs

- Investing in Staff to Ensure Continued OET Success
  - Launched Honors Engineering Program New Talent for Cutting-Edge Engineering



 Investing in Tools and Resources to Tackle Increasingly Complex Radiofrequency Engineering Challenges



